GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2724
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2003
DEVELOPMENT OF KONARK
TRILOCHAN KANUNGO

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Konark in Orissa has been recognized as an International Heritage Centre;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted about the current tourist flow to 'Konark' and the potential of tourist growth both internal and foreign in immediate future;

(d) whether Government are aware of the bad road condition from Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Puri and lack of Railway link to 'Konark';

(e) if so, the measures being taken in this regard;

(f) whether any programme has been finalised for development in and around 'Konark';

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the efforts made by his Ministry to get converted Fulnakhera (at NH No.5) Niali-Madhab-Charichhak-Gop-Konark-Puri (at NH No.203) SH No.60 Road into National Highway?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) and (b): The Sun Temple at Konark was declared to be a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in the year 1984.

(c): The Department of Tourism has not conducted any survey about the tourist flow to Konark. However, 9,98,514 persons are estimated to have visited Sun Temple, Konark in the year 2001.

(d) and (e): The roads to many tourist sites in the country including Orissa need improvement. The road connection from Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Puri to Konark falls under the jurisdiction of the State Government.

(f) and (g): The development/improvement schemes are in hand.

(h): No such proposal has been received in the Department of Tourism from the State Government. However, a proposal for declaration of road from Puri to Phulankhara as National Highway was received in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways from the State Government. But it has not been declared as National Highway so far.